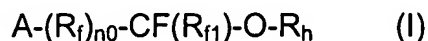


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Original) Process for obtaining hydrofluoroethers of formula (I):



wherein:

$n_0$  is zero or 1;

$R_f$  is a bivalent radical:

$C_1-C_{20}$ , preferably  $C_2-C_{12}$ , linear or branched (per)fluoroalkylene, optionally containing one or more oxygen atoms;

$-CFW'O-(R_{f2})-CFW-$ , wherein  $W$  and  $W'$ , equal or different, are  $F$ ,  $CF_3$ ;  $R_{f2}$  is a (per)fluoropolyoxyalkylene containing one or more of the following units, statistically distributed along the chain,  $(C_3F_6O)$ ;  $(CFWO)$  wherein  $W$  is as above;  $(C_2F_4O)$ ,  $(CF_2(CF_2)_zCF_2)$  wherein  $z$  is an integer equal to 1 or 2;  $(CH_2CF_2CF_2)$ ;

$R_{f1}$  is  $F$  or a  $C_1-C_{10}$  linear or branched (per)fluoroalkyl or (per)fluorooxyalkyl radical;

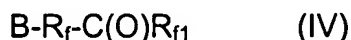
$R_h$  is a  $C_1-C_{20}$ , preferably  $C_1-C_{10}$  linear, branched when possible, saturated or unsaturated when possible alkyl, or  $C_7-C_{20}$  alkylaryl, optionally containing heteroatoms selected from  $F$ ,  $O$ ,  $N$ ,  $S$ ,  $P$ ,  $Cl$ ; and/or functional groups preferably selected from

$-SO_2F$ ,  $-CH=CH_2$ ,  $-CH_2CH=CH_2$  and  $NO_2$ ;

$A = F$ ,  $(R_{h2}O)-CF(R_{f4})-$ ,  $-C(O)F$ , wherein

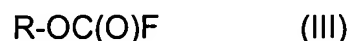
- $R_{h2}$ , equal to or different from  $R_h$ , has the  $R_h$  meanings;
- $R_{f4}$ , equal to or different from  $R_{f1}$ , has the  $R_{f1}$  meanings;

wherein a mono- or bifunctional carbonyl compound of formula:



wherein B is F or  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}_{f4}$ ,  $\text{R}_f$ ,  $\text{R}_{f1}$  and  $\text{R}_{f4}$  being as above,

is reacted with at least one equivalent of a fluoroformate of formula:



wherein R –  $\text{R}_h$  or  $\text{R}_{h2}$  as above;

in the presence of an ion fluoride compound (catalyst) and of a dipolar aprotic organic compound, liquid and inert under the reaction conditions.

Claim 2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the  $(\text{C}_3\text{F}_6\text{O})$  unit of  $\text{R}_{f2}$  can be  $(\text{CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{O})$  or  $(\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{CF}_2\text{O})$ .

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-2~~ claim 1, wherein in formula (I)  $\text{R}_{f1}$  and  $\text{R}_{f4}$  of A, independently the one from the other, are F,  $\text{CF}_3$ .

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein when  $\text{R}_f$  of formula (I) is a (per)fluoroalkylene,  $\text{R}_f$  is selected from the following groups:  $-\text{CF}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CF}_2(\text{CF}_3)\text{CF}-$ ; when  $\text{R}_f$  contains one oxygen atom it preferably is  $-\text{CF}_2(\text{OCF}_3)\text{CF}-$ .

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}_{f2}$  is a perfluoropolyoxyalkylene chain having number average molecular weight from 66 to 12,000, preferably from 100 to 5,000, more preferably from 300 to 2,000.

Claim 6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein when  $R_{f2}$  is a perfluorooxyalkylene chain it is preferably selected from the following structures:

- a)  $-(CF_2CF_2O)_m(CF_2O)_n(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_p(CF(CF_3)O)_q-$ ;
- b)  $-(CF_2O)_n(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_p(CF(CF_3)O)_q-$ ;
- c)  $-(CF_2CF_2O)_m(CF_2O)_n$ ;

wherein:

m is comprised between 0 and 100 extremes included;

n is comprised between 0 and 50 extremes included;

p is comprised between 0 and 100 extremes included;

q is comprised between 0 and 60 extremes included;

$m+n+p+q>0$  and the number average molecular weight of  $R_{f2}$  being in the above limited.

Claim 7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein  $R_{f2}$  is a perfluorooxyalkylene c), and the m/n ratio ranges from 0.1 to 10, n being different from zero and the number average molecular weight comprised within the above limits.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein in formula (I)  $R_h$  and  $R_{h2}$  having the following ~~meanings~~ meanings:  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH(CH_3)_2$ ,  $-CH_2CH=CH_2$ .

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein the ion fluoride compound is any compound capable to generate ion fluorides when, in the presence of dipolar aprotic solvents, at temperatures from 20 °C up to 200 °C, said

dipolar aprotic solvents being acetonitrile, dimethyl-formamide, glyme, ethylene polyoxides dimethylethers (PEO-dimethylethers).

Claim 10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the ion fluoride compound is selected from the group comprising metal fluorides, preferably alkaline or alkaline-earth metal fluorides; AgF; alkylammoniumfluorides, alkylphosphonium-fluorides, wherein the nitrogen and respectively the phosphor atom can be substituted with one or more C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl groups, equal to or different from each other.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 9-10~~ claim 9, wherein the ion fluoride compound is CsF and KF.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 9-11~~ claim 9, wherein the catalyst is optionally supported.

Claim 13. A process according to ~~claims 1-12~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst amounts, expressed in % moles, are in the range 0.1% - 50% with respect to the mono- or bifunctional carbonyl compound of formula (IV).